

✓ Latest release

Characteristics of Employment, Australia

Weekly earnings of employees, casual workers, independent contractors, trade union membership, labour hire, job flexibility, job security

Reference period August 2024

Released 9/12/2024

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Key statistics

In August 2024:

- 2.6 million employees did not have paid leave entitlements (22% of employees, and 18% of all employed).
- 20% of employees considered their job to be casual.
- 36% of employed people usually worked from home, down from 37% in Aug 2023.
- There were 1.1 million independent contractors (7.5% of all employed).
- 13.1% of employees (1.6 million) were trade union members in their main job, an increase on the 12.5% recorded in August 2022.
- Median employee earnings in main job was \$1,396 per week, up \$96 (7.4%) since August 2023.
- Median hourly earnings in main job was \$40.00 per hour, up \$0.30 since August 2023.

Feedback

Statistics from the Characteristics of Employment survey are published in four topic-based releases:

- [Employee earnings \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/employee-earnings/latest-release)
- [Working arrangements \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/working-arrangements/latest-release)
- [Trade union membership \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-work-hours/trade-union-membership/latest-release)
- [Labour hire workers \(/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release\)](/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/labour-hire-workers/latest-release)

Data downloads

Employee earnings

[Download all \(125.71 MB\)](#)

Table 1 - Employee earnings, 1975-2024

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by demographic characteristics

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Table 3 - Distribution of earnings for employees by industry

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Table 4a - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation and skill level

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Table 4b - Distribution of earnings for employees by occupation (detailed)

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Table 5 - Distribution of earnings for employees by educational qualification

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[21.88 MB]

Table 6 - Median earnings for employees by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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Table 7 - Median earnings for multiple job holders

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Table 8 - Distribution of earnings, 1989-2024

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Feedback

Earnings guide

To learn more about the earnings data collected by the ABS, refer to our [Guide to labour statistics \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/). It provides summary information on labour market topics including [Earnings \(/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/\)](/statistics/understanding-statistics/guide-labour-statistics/earnings-guide/) data.

Working arrangements

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Table 1 - Job flexibility and Job security

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees and OMIEs by demographic characteristics

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[10.79 MB]

Table 3 - Form of employment by demographic characteristics

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[3.83 MB]

Table 4 - Form of employment by industry, occupation and educational qualification

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[4.51 MB]

Table 5 - Independent contractors by whether had authority over own work

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[1.56 MB]

Table 6 - Employees on a fixed-term contract

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Table 7 - Casual experience

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Table 8 - Digital platform workers

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Trade Union Membership

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Table 1 - Median earnings by full-time or part-time, state and trade union members in main job

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Table 2 - Median earnings for employees by trade union membership

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Table 3 - Median earnings for employees by duration (length) of current trade union membership

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[1.18 MB]

Feedback

Microdata and TableBuilder

August 2024 Characteristics of Employment data will be released in [Tablebuilder \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/tablebuilder\)](#) and microdata in ABS [DataLab \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/datalab\)](#) (as a supplementary file for the [Longitudinal Labour Force \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/longitudinal-labour-force-australia\)](#) (LLFS) microdata) on 19 December 2024. For more information, refer to [Microdata and TableBuilder: Characteristics of Employment \(/statistics/microdata-tablebuilder/available-microdata-tablebuilder/characteristics-employment-australia\)](#).

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6333.0.

Methodology

[Characteristics of Employment, Australia methodology, August 2024](#)

